## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA ATLANTA DIVISION

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

DRIVE PLANNING, LLC, and RUSSELL TODD BURKHALTER,

Defendants,

and

JACQUELINE BURKHALTER, THE BURKHALTER RANCH CORPORATION, DRIVE PROPERTIES, LLC, DRIVE GULFPORT PROPERTIES LLC, and TBR SUPPLY HOUSE, INC.,

Relief Defendants.

Case No. 1:24-cy-03583-VMC

# ORDER APPROVING CLAIMS PROCESS AND EMPLOYMENT OF STRETTO INC. AS NOTICING AND CLAIMS PROCESSING AGENT

THIS MATTER came before the Court on the Receiver's Motion to Approve Claims Process and for Authorization to Employ Stretto Inc. as Noticing and Claims Processing Agent (the "Motion").<sup>1</sup> With the Court having considered the Motion and the court file in the above-captioned case, noting that Plaintiff and Relief Defendants have no objection to the requested relief and that Defendant Burkhalter has not asserted an objection, and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, the Court finds there is good cause to grant the Motion.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. The Motion is granted in its entirety. The form of Legal Notice of Claims Process (the "Notice") attached as Exhibit B to the Motion is approved. The Proof of Claim and Release Form (the "Claim Form") attached as Exhibit C to the Motion is approved.

The Receiver is authorized to implement the claims process as set forth in the Motion and below (the "Claims Process"):

#### 2. NOTICE OF CLAIMS PROCESS

**2.1 Retention of Claims Agent:** The Court authorizes the Receiver to engage Stretto Inc. ("Stretto") to serve as noticing and claims processing agent ("Claims Agent") in the administration of the Claims Process as set forth in the executed Proposal and Services Agreement attached as Exhibit A to the Receiver's Motion. The Receiver is authorized to pay an initial retainer of

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

\$15,000 to Stretto to cover the initial fees and costs it incurs in connection with the Claims Process. After the entire retainer is applied to such fees and costs, the Receiver is authorized to pay the monthly invoices that Stretto sends to the Receiver in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per month for services rendered and costs incurred, without further order of the Court.<sup>2</sup> To the extent Stretto's fees and costs incurred for the Claims Process exceed this \$10,000 monthly maximum, the Receiver will request authority from the Court to pay the additional amount. Stretto shall be paid from the Receivership Estate only as authorized by the Court herein.

2.2 Notice to Potential Claimants: The Receiver, with the assistance of Stretto, shall notify each known potential claimant of the Claims Process, the Claims Bar Date, and their right to submit a Claim Form as provided herein by sending the Notice in a form substantially similar to Exhibit B to the Receiver's Motion. The Notice shall be sent by email to the last known email address of all known potential claimants, by no later than 60 days after the date of this Order. The Notice shall include a link to the online portal for completion and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This \$10,000 monthly maximum does not apply to the monthly invoices that Stretto sends to the Receiver for the investor data and document collection portal that the Receiver has utilized to prepare the pre-filled claim forms and will continue to utilize to confirm claim amounts and make determinations in the Claims Process. The Receiver is authorized to continue to pay those invoices.

submission of the Claim Form. The Receiver will also post the Notice, a link to the online claims portal, a copy of this Order, and any other information the Receiver deems appropriate on the receivership website.

### 3. FILING OF CLAIMS

- 3.1 Allowed Claim: The claim of an investor or creditor will be allowed (an "Allowed Claim"), such that the claimant will be *entitled* to receive a distribution from the Drive Planning Recovery Fund based on that claimant's loss of principal investment, the value of the goods or services rendered, or the amount owed to claimant, provided that the claimant sufficiently demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Receiver through documentation and/or sworn statements, among other things:
  - (i) that such claimant invested funds with, and/or provided goods or services or a loan *directly* to, Drive Planning;
  - (ii) that the total amount that such claimant transferred, or the value of the goods or services the claimant provided, to Drive Planning, exceeds the total amount that Drive Planning or its affiliates transferred back or paid to such claimant;

**AND** 

(iii) that such claimant (a) was not a member, owner, officer, director, or other insider of Drive Planning, (b) was not a member, owner, officer, director, or other insider of any entity owned in full or in part by Drive Planning, and (c) did not knowingly assist Drive Planning or Defendant Burkhalter to effectuate, perpetuate, or promote any of Drive Planning's investment scheme(s) or have knowledge of the fraudulent nature of such scheme at the time of the investment, loan, or other transaction underlying the claim.<sup>3</sup>

The Receiver may consider other factors in determining whether a claim is an Allowed Claim.<sup>4</sup> If an investor or creditor cannot prove all three of the foregoing factors to the Receiver's satisfaction, that claimant's claim will be

<sup>3</sup> Upon receipt of a Claim Form from agent-investors who suffered a net loss, the Receiver is hereby authorized to review the relationship between each agent-investor and Drive Planning and determine whether the agent-investor can properly certify that he/she is not an insider of Drive Planning as stated in this subsection (ii). To the extent the Receiver determines that an agent-investor can properly certify the statements in subsection (ii), that agent-investor shall be treated like a non-agent investor in this Claims Process.

Notwithstanding these factors for determining whether a claim should be allowed, the Receiver is hereby authorized to analyze each claim and the circumstances surrounding each investor's investment in or transfers to Drive Planning, and relationship with, Drive Planning and/or Defendant Burkhalter and the corporate entities owned by Drive Planning and/or Defendant Burkhalter and object to and seek to disallow any claim based on any information or circumstances.

disallowed, and such investor or creditor will receive no distribution.

Allowed Claim Amount: The Receiver will pre-fill the Claim Form 3.2 with each investor claimant's net loss amount (the "Allowed Claim Amount"), as calculated by the Receiver using Drive Planning's bank account records, the forensic reconstruction of Drive Planning's bank accounts prepared by the Receiver's forensic accountant, and the investors' documents uploaded to the data collection portal hosted by Stretto. The Receiver will calculate the Allowed Claim Amount by subtracting the total amount of transfers (regardless of how those transfers were categorized by Drive Planning) that an investor or creditor received from Drive Planning from the total amount of transfers that such investor made to Drive Planning (i.e., a simple money-in, money-out calculation). An investor's allowed claim amount will be equal to the investor's net loss. Each known investor will receive notice of the Claims Process and a pre-filled claim form stating the Receiver's determination of the investor's Allowed Claim Amount with a breakdown of that investor's deposits to and withdrawals from Drive Planning. Investors will have the opportunity to confirm and/or dispute each deposit and withdrawal and the resulting net loss (allowed claim) amount, as calculated by the Receiver, and, if disputed, submit a claim against the Estate for a different amount with supporting documentation. The Receiver will consider such claims and

supporting documentation in making a determination regarding the amount of each investor's Allowed Claim Amount.

The calculation of a claimant's Allowed Claim Amount will not include any interest, profit, or fees promised, but not paid, to an investor or creditor. claimant's net loss will be calculated on a consolidated basis, so that if a claimant has multiple accounts, including personal accounts held individually or jointly with a spouse, individual retirement accounts, trust accounts, and/or sole-owned limited liability company accounts, the Allowed Claim Amount will be the total deposits in all accounts minus the total withdrawals from all accounts. Claimants are required to report any amounts recovered from third parties related to Drive Planning so that those amounts may be deducted from the Allowed Claim Amount. At any point in the Claims Process or during implementation of the plan of distribution, an Allowed Claim Amount may be increased or decreased if the Receiver discovers additional deposits, withdrawals, or recovery of losses from a third party. The investor or creditor will be promptly notified of any change in Allowed Claim Amount and given an opportunity to dispute that change.

3.3 Filing Claims: Any claimant asserting a claim against the Estate of Drive Planning LLC, regardless of whether that claim has been acknowledged by the Receiver, shall file with the Receiver's Claims Agent a

Claim Form on or before the Claims Bar Date. The Claim Form shall be deemed filed on the date it is received by the Receiver's Claims Agent.

- 3.4 Place to File Claims: All Claim Forms shall be completed and submitted through the online claims portal hosted by Stretto. The Receiver will email each investor claimant a pre-filled Claim Form containing the claimant's identifying information and the proposed Allowed Claim Amount. Claimants will have the option to dispute or reject the Allowed Claim Amount stated on the Claim Form through the online claims portal. Claimants unable to submit a Claim Form using the online claims portal may print the Claim Form and complete and submit it with supporting documents by mail postage prepaid to: Drive Planning Receivership Claims Processing c/o Stretto, 410 Exchange, Ste. 100, Irvine, CA 92602. The deadline by which Claim Forms must be received by the Receiver or Stretto shall be 90 days from the date of the Order approving this Motion.
- 3.5 Prohibition Against Filing Claims with Court: No Claim Form shall be filed with the Court, and any such Claim Form so filed shall not be considered properly filed as required under this Order.
- 3.6 Disputing the Receiver's Determination of Allowed Claim Amount: Claimants who dispute the Allowed Claim Amount stated in the pre-filled Claim Form must complete a blank Claim Form as shown in Exhibit C to the

Motion and upload documentation supporting their purported Allowed Claim Amount. That supporting documentation should be comprised of bank account statements, brokerage account statement, Individual Retirement Account statements, wire transfer receipts, and/or cancelled checks evidencing transfers to and withdrawals and/or distributions from Drive Planning. The Receiver will not rely on any documents prepared by Drive Planning or Defendant Burkhalter in calculating a claimant's Allowed Claim Amount.

- 3.7 Creditor Claims: Creditors will need to complete the Claim Form using the online portal because their Claim Forms will not be pre-filled, and upload supporting documents evidencing the value of the goods and services provided to Drive Planning and the unpaid nature of their invoices or Drive Planning's purported debt to the creditor.
- 3.8 Processing of Claims: Stretto shall collect and record all submitted Claim Forms on a claims register. Stretto will conduct a preliminary review of the Claim Forms, determine whether the claimant is accepting or disputing the Allowed Claim Amount stated on the Claim Form and whether disputed claims lack supporting documents, and request such documents from claimants. Stretto shall also make an initial calculation of the Allowed Claim Amount as evidenced by supporting documentation for all disputed claim amounts

and submit that calculation to the Receiver's office for review and approval by the Receiver.

#### 4. THE CLAIMS DETERMINATIONS

- 4.1 Receiver's Final Determinations of Claims: The Receiver will review Stretto's initial determinations for each disputed claim and make a final determination (the "Final Determination") as to the amount, if any, to be allowed for each claim. To the extent the Receiver decides to reject a claim in whole or in part, the Receiver, with Stretto's assistance, will send to the claimant an email setting forth the Receiver's Final Determination and identifying: (i) the reason(s) the Receiver has rejected or not accepted the full amount of the claim; and (ii) the classification of the claim. The email to claimants will also state the deadline to appeal the Receiver's Final Determination to this Court.
- 4.5 Court's Final Adjudication of Claims: A claimant with a partially or wholly disallowed claim may appeal the Receiver's Final Determination to this Court for final adjudication by no later than 20 days after the Receiver sends the Final Determination to the claimant by email. The Receiver will file with the Court a response to any such appeal by no later than 30 days after the appeal is filed with the Court. The Court shall have sole jurisdiction and serve as the exclusive venue to consider the appeal of any claimant who objects to any

part of the Receiver's Final Determination. This Court's determination on a claimant's appeal is final for all purposes. There shall be no further appeal of such determination or proceedings.

4.6 Proposed Distribution Plan: Upon completion of the Claims Process, by no later than 30 days after the Court enters an Order regarding all pending appeals of the Receiver's Final Determinations, the Receiver shall submit to the Court for approval all Final Determinations of Allowed Claims and a proposed distribution plan providing the amount of the proposed initial distribution to each claimant holding an Allowed Claim.

**4.7 Claims Process Schedule:** The Claims Process schedule is reflected in the following summary timetable:

Day 0	Plan Approval Date
Day 60	Receiver to send out Claims Packages
Day 90	Claims Bar Date
Day 120	Receiver's Final Determination Date
Day 140	Claimant Deadline to Appeal Final Determination to the Court
Day 170	Receiver's Deadline to File Responses to Appeals
TBD	Receiver's Deadline to File Motion to Approve Plan of Distribution and Proposed Initial Distribution Amounts

	4.8	Modification	of 1	the	Claims	s Pr	ocess:	The	Rece	eiver	is
authorized	to mod	lify, without fu	rther	orde	r of thi	s Cou	art, the C	laims	s Proc	ess a	nd
the approv	ed for	ms as necessa	ry to	con	nplete	the c	bjectives	of	such	proce	ess
consistent v	with thi	s Order.									

	DONE AND O	ORDERED i	in the Northern	n District of C	eorgia on this	
day o	f	_, 2025.				

HON. VICTORIA M. CALVERT UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE